

LITERATURE NOTICE

Natural History Collections. Past. Present. Future.—A Symposium of the Biological Society of Washington. Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash. 82:559-762, Nov. 1969. \$4.00, paper. (Available from the Society, c/o National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. 20560.)

The scope of this volume is illustrated by the Table of Contents: Art and science as influences on the early development of Natural History collections, by P. C. Ritterbush; Vertebrate fossil collections—a fragmentary document, by N. Hotton; Fossils—the how and why of collecting and storing, by E. L. Yochelson; The role of the National Parasite Collection in veterinary parasitology, by W. W. Becklund; The National Collections as biological standards, by R. Cowan; Does Anthropology need museums?, by W. C. Sturtevant; The role of museum collections in ornithological research, by R. L. Zusi; Malacological collections—development and management, by J. Rosewater; Automation in museum collections, by R. B. Manning; The herbarium: past, present, and future, by S. G. Shetler; Summary, by D. Cohen and E. Lachner.

A paper entitled “Entomological collections—the dilemma of success,” was presented by Donald Duckworth but is not included as part of the publication.—R. E. Woodruff.

BOOK REVIEW

Wildlife Crisis by HRH Prince Philip (Duke of Edinburgh) and James Fisher. 1970. Cowles Book Co., Inc., 488 Madison Ave., N. Y. 10022. 265 p., 8 maps, 31 colored plates, 105 black & white fig. Cloth, \$14.95.

This is a beautifully produced, fantastically illustrated, and relevant source book of extinct and endangered birds and mammals of the World (as of Dec. 31, 1969). The list of species was compiled by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN). The royalties from the book's sale go to the World Wildlife Fund. In addition to the prestigious authors listed above, there are forewords by HRH Prince Bernhard (Netherlands) and noted author Peter Scott and an epilogue by former U.S. Secretary of Interior Stewart L. Udall.

Aside from the beauty of the book, it is of interest to our readers for other reasons. HRH Prince Philip stated in the Preface:

“It is worth remembering that most of the world's flora and fauna were catalogued and classified by Europeans. I suspect that the rest of the world still looks upon dedicated bird watching, or the collection of everything from Acephalan molluscs to Zabrus beetles as a form of madness.”

I am sure that the 500+ members of our Coleopterists Society would take exception to this statement. Europeans have played an important role in describing the world's plants and animals, due in great part to their colonization of large parts of the globe. However, I believe that the concern, over and conservation of, our wildlife is not confined to Europeans.

The number of extinct and vanishing species of birds and mammals listed in the book is staggering. Of special interest to coleopterists is the fact that many of these vertebrates have specific beetle faunas associated with their nests, burrows, and dung. There are a great number of invertebrates which have already become extinct or are in danger because of this close association with endangered vertebrates. The study of these associated faunas should take high priority in our research.—R. E. Woodruff.